

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Duxbury Clipper

Picture perfect

Local photographers team up at portrait studio

By JUSTIN GRAEBER, CLIPPER EDITOR
JUSTIN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM

Photography can be a lonely occupation. Professional photographers often work solo because of the creative nature of the work, posing high school seniors in front of sand dunes or waving



stuffed birds around while hoping a child stops crying long enough to snap a studio shot.

But three local shutterbugs have opened a shared portrait studio in the center of town, and each brings their own expertise and personal touch to the new company.

Nichole Fredriksen, Kristin Emerson and Deni Johnson have formed the Duxbury Portrait Company, based out of Nine Standish Street. The three come from diverse backgrounds and each has a photographic specialty.



Local photographers Nichole Fredriksen, Kristin Emerson and Deni Johnson recently teamed up to open a shared portrait studio space at Nine Standish Street.

DUXBURY PORTRAIT COMPANY

Location: Nine Standish Street

Phone: 781-934-1541

Features: Studio and environmental portraits, business publicity photos, senior photos, weddings, passports.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web site: The photographers have individual Websites; deni-johnsonphotography.com, Fredriksenphotography.com and Bostonportraits.com.

For Emerson, taking pictures was the family business. Her father was a photographer, and she grew up following him around, taking pictures at weddings and other events.

"My whole life I was doing weddings, portraits," she said.

Although she liked photography, she originally worked for the Museum of Fine Arts before returning home to run her father's business. Eventually she opened a studio in Boston specializing in business headshots.

"I decided I wanted to do a small limited-mission studio," she said.

Fredriksen works for Emerson at her Boston studio. She studied photography at UMass Dartmouth, then the Hallmark Institute of Photography, where she focused on the business end of photography as well as portraits.

"I always liked taking photos as a kid," Fredriksen said.

Johnson, who also takes photos for the Clipper, followed a less traditional path

to her trade. A mother of four, when she first moved to Duxbury she got involved with the PTO, and found parents often needed someone to take their child's picture.

"They needed someone to take pictures of the kids ... it just sort of snowballed," Johnson said.

Earlier this year, the three women started to talk about the idea of sharing a studio. For Emerson and Fredriksen, it was about having a studio space closer to home.

"We sat down and said, wouldn't it be nice to be downtown," said Emerson.

For Johnson, who usually works outdoors (anyone looking at a recent Duxbury High School yearbook has seen her photos of seniors on the beach), doing portraits is a new experience.

ographer working in a studio has to face the timeless predicament that can vex even the most experienced photog — getting people to sit still. But who is tougher to get a pose out of, a high-powered CEO, or an antsy child? The three women were unanimous about the toughest subject — kids.

"Someone sitting in a portrait studio is vulnerable," said Emerson. "The trick is to shake that out of them and instill a sense of confidence."

However, with a young child, the perfect photo may be the one he or she sits still for. Emerson said she always keeps her eye out for a tell that indicates a child's patience has been exhausted, when he or she arches their back.

"Kids have a window," she said. "With a kid, you're never in the driver's seat."

Despite the quirks of the job, all three women love what they do — the possibility of capturing the perfect moment makes it all worth it.

"If you're a people person, it's really a lot of fun," said Johnson.